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question concerning the franchise ; if not given to the mixed races, there was really next to nobody else to hold it. And as to the results, miserable as the condition of these countries is allowed to be, we should be glad to have the time pointed out since their conquest when it was better. The colonial era was a horrible, and, to any but the most submissive of people, an intolerable compound of robbery, venality, and oppression in every shape. That *régime* alone was sufficient to wear out the public virtue of Spain, as it wore out the life of the colonies. Between two and three hundred years of this torment, as well as fifty years of republicanism, are now bearing their fruits ; and if there is any lesson in this quarter to profit by, it seems quite as likely to be a knowledge of the effect of injury and oppression, even when, as in the case of the Indians, it has not been carried to the extent of personal slavery, as of the result of too much laxity in political arrangements.

The publication of this book at this day keenly reminds us of the depth to which our government had fallen ; but it brings with it, at the same time, an exquisite sense of relief, as an incident of the great victory, that we are not to be henceforth so misrepresented. Perhaps we shall find the point of agreement with our author in our mutual satisfaction that he is the last of that breed of diplomatists who used to be sent abroad to belie the principles of our institutions. By what Nemesis is it that, while those who plainly cling to slavery for its barefaced use and profit occasionally exhibit in speech and writing something of the point and vigor belonging to a creation of mere force, its theoretical admirers and defenders are abandoned to the puerile, the sentimental, the namby-pamby in literature ? Now that slavery is gone, is all the affected elegance, all the thin scholarship, to pass away with it ? That is too good to hope. But in that case this book might remain a sample of the product of an extinct state of mind and a perfect treasury of everything in a literary performance that we do not care to characterize.

14. — *The Works of the Right Honorable EDMUND BURKE.* Revised Edition. Vol. I. Boston : Little, Brown, & Co. 1865. Cr. 8vo. pp. xx., 537.

THIS is the first volume of an edition of Burke's Works, in twelve volumes. One volume is to appear each month till the series is completed. In convenience of size and in excellence of typography it surpasses all previous editions, English or American, of the works of the great orator. It is, as we understand, a reprint of the authorized collection of Mr. Burke's writings, which was published in London, in six-

teen octavo volumes, at intervals from 1801 to 1827. There is reason for regret that no competent editor has as yet undertaken to prepare an edition of Burke, with such biographical, historical, and literary notes as are required to give to the general reader a knowledge of the circumstances under which his various writings appeared, of their relations to his life, and of their contemporary effect. Such information must now be collected from the biographies of the author, and from various other sources. The debt of England, and we may add of America, to the most eloquent of English orators and the most philosophic of English statesmen, will not be discharged till this due honor has been paid to the masterpieces in which the ample stores of his political wisdom are contained, and in which his marvellous fertility of imagination, powers of thought, and mastery of expression are displayed.

But we need not pronounce the eulogium of Burke, nor recommend the study of his works. They will remain the delight of the lover of noble thought delivered in noble language; and every student of the science of politics will turn to them for much of his best instruction.

15. — *France and England in North America. A Series of Historical Narratives.* By FRANCIS PARKMAN, Author of "History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac," "Prairie and Rocky Mountain Life," &c. Part First. *Pioneers of France in the New World.* Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1865. 8vo. pp. xxii., 420.

The choice of so insignificant a thing as a title has sometimes had no small influence on the good or evil fortunes of a book. The selection of a subject has often a yet more immediate bearing on the fate of an author. A happy judgment in this particular is a very considerable argument of his aptness for his task, and a by no means unimportant part of that innate outfit of ability which insures as well as justifies prosperity. To know his own aptitudes and limitations, to obey instinctively the natural magnetism of his talents and temperament, proves a writer to be gifted with that taste, which, if not itself genius, is at least the unerring counsellor that makes it available for service and success. No force of mind will overcome the uncouthness and repugnancy of a churlish theme. There are blocks which have not in them any Mercury, winged messenger of the gods, the guide of dreams. The avenues of fame show many an unsightly monument of misadventurous powers.

Mr. Parkman has shown a singular felicity in his selection of topics. There is a part of history which we call, somewhat indefinitely, perhaps,